Members of the Expert Committee essential drugs

265. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 165 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th March, 1987 and state:

(a) the basis of selection of each member of the expert committee set up by Government to determine the list of essential drugs; and

(b) what is their contribution in selection of drugs and diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) The Members of the Committee have been selected conribution in the field of Industrial Costs and Prices, Pharmacology, Food and Drug Administration and Medicines.

Revision of Drugs Price Control Order

266. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to revise the existing Drug Price Control Order, 1979;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a Committee will be appointed to suggest changes in the provisions of Drugs Price Control;

(c) if so, by when such a Committee will be appointed and what will be the terms of reference of that Committee; and

(d) what are the detailed reasons for revising the existing Drugs Price Control Order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) Government has announced measures for rationalisation, quality control and growth of the drugs and pharmaceutical industry in the country, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library. In pesruance thereof a Committee has been constituted to identify drugs to be included in Category II.

Prohibited prices of medicines

267. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that medicines are beyond the reach of common man and more than 80 per cent of the population can not take the benefit of medicines but for their prohibitive prices;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to provide the medicines at reasonable prices;

(c) what are the reasons for price increase of Depsonil tablets, Ferradol, Calmpose tablets, Valium tablets, Siquil tablets, Nasavion drops, Protinex Pilocar 2 per cent, Complan, Farex, Glucose D, Equanil tablets, Ethobral tablets, Lotensyl tablets and Agarol;

(d) what was the price of each of these medicines at the time of announcement of Drugs Price Control Order 1979 and what is the present price of each alongwith percentage increase in each case; and

(e) what steps have been taken to bring down the prices of these medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The prices of essential medicnes are controlled under the DPCO. Medicines required for National Health Programme are supplied free or at subsidised rates by the Government.